

**Connecticut Education
Association**

Governance

Philip Apruzzese, President
Sheila Cohen, Vice President
Cheryl Prevost, Secretary
Jeff Leake, Treasurer
Rae Baczek, NEA Director
Maureen Honan, NEA Director
Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106-8001
860-525-5641, 800-842-4316
Fax: 860-725-6388
www.cea.org

Executive Office
Dr. John Yrchik
Executive Director

Affiliated with the
National Education
Association

TO: Members of the Regional Efficiency Subcommittee
Of Connecticut's Smart Growth Task Force

FROM: Phil Apruzzese, President
Connecticut Education Association

RE: Request for Input

DATE: August 27, 2008

In response to your letter of August 12, 2008, the CEA offers the following three recommendations for "possible inclusion in the subcommittee's final report to the full task force":

1. As all municipalities and boards of education struggle to meet higher and higher operational costs, the state needs to provide greater financial incentives to those municipalities and boards of education that purchase these operational necessities on a regional basis including but not limited to transportation/busing; oil/energy; books; and supplies.
2. The state must help develop and offer a plan or plans that allows for the purchasing of health insurance through a state wide pool.
3. The state and the federal government should provide for the full funding of all special education costs thereby eliminating this burden from the local taxpayers.

Also, I wish to advise you that Vincent Loffredo of our government relations department will be representing the CEA at your forum on Thursday, September 4, 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with these suggestions

